

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CAB-02
COME-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /064 W
-----074365 101756Z /44

O R 101726Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6953
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
FAA BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS: EAIR, FR, UK, US
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: CONCORDE

1. CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE OF FOREIGN MINISTRY CALLED IN
CAA AUGUST 10 TO BRIEF HIM ON JOINT DEMARCHE FRENCH
AND BRITISH AMBASSADORS WERE BEING INSTRUCTED TO
MAKE IN WASHINGTON THIS WEEK TO DEPT. AND WHITE HOUSE
ON SUBJECT OF CONCORDE. PRESENT WITH HER WAS
MICHEL LAGORCE OF THE DGAC.

2. CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE SAID DEMARCHE REFLECTED THE
SERIOUS CONCERN OF THE TWO GOVERNMENTS OVER WHAT ACTION
THE USG WOULD TAKE WHEN THE SIXTEEN-MONTH TRIAL
PERIOD FOR CONCORDE AT DULLES ENDED ON SEPT. 24. THE
TWO GOVERNMENTS WISHED THE USG TO TAKE A "SPECIFIC
DECISION" ON THAT OCCASION, TO THE EFFECT THAT THE
RESULTS OF THE DULLES NOISE MONITORING PROGRAM HAD
BEEN SATISFACTORY AND HENCE CONCORDE WAS GRANTED
DEFINITIVE AUTHORIZATION TO CONTINUE SERVING DULLES.
THE TWO GOVERNMENTS RECOGNIZED THAT SUCH "SPECIFIC
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DECISION" COULD, OF COURSE, BE SUBJECT TO REVISION
AT THE END OF THE CURRENT SST NOISE RULEMAKING
EXERCISE.

3. IF, HOWEVER, THE USG WERE TO TAKE THE POSITION
THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ISSUE A "SPECIFIC DECISION"
ALONG THOSE LINES, THEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD

WITH RELUCTANCE, AND AT THE "EXTREME LIMIT" OF WHAT THEY WOULD ACCEPT, SETTLE FOR A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE USG TO THE EFFECT THAT THE RESULTS OF THE DULLES TEST PERIOD HAD BEEN SATISFACTORY AND CONTINUATION OF CONCORDE SERVICE TO DULLES WAS THEREFORE AUTHORIZED PROVISIONALLY PENDING COMPLETION OF SST NOISE RULEMAKING. CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT REALLY AN ALTERNATIVE, FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS HOPED AND EXPECTED THAT THE USG WOULD ABIDE FULLY BY THE TERMS OF THE COLEMAN DECISION, WHEREIN IT HAD BEEN STATED EQUIVOCALLY THAT A DEFINITIVE DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN IN SIXTEEN MONTHS.

4. LAGORCE EXPLAINED THAT GOF CONCERN HAD BEEN TRIGGERED BY US DEL STATEMENT TO BRITISH DURING BERMUDA II NEGOTIATIONS THAT DOT MIGHT BE REQUIRED DELAY DEFINITIVE DECISION ON CONCORDE AT END OF DULLES TRIAL PERIOD BECAUSE OF SST NOISE RULEMAKING EXERCISE. (COMMENT: CLAUDE-LAFONTAINE SAID THIS STATEMENT APPEARS IN MEMORANDUM US DEL GAVE TO BRITISH ON MAY 17, OF WHICH WE FIND NO RECORD IN OUR FILES, HOWEVER. PLEASE PROVIDE REFERENCE OR REPEAT CABLE TO US IF NOT PREVIOUSLY SENT PARIS.) LAGORCE SAID THAT WHEN BRITISH DISCUSSED THIS WITH FRENCH A DIFFERENCE OF VIEWS DEVELOPED BUT, HE SAID, AS A RESULT OF FURTHER TALKS THE TWO GOVERNMENTS ARE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NOW IN COMPLETE ACCORD. JOINT DEMARCHE NOW BEING MADE IN WASHINGTON THUS "SUPERSEDES" ANYTHING USG

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O R 101726Z AUG 77
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WAS TOLD EARLIER (I.E., BY UK) THIS SUBJECT, HE
SAID.

5. LAGORCE ADDED THAT ANY POSTPONEMENT OF FINAL
DECISION FOR DULLES, WAS "FUNDAMENTALLY UNACCEPTABLE"
TO THE GOF. WHAT THE GOF DEMANDED WAS STRICT
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COLEMAN DECISION, AND HE
CALLED PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO FOOTNOTE EIGHT OF
THAT DECISION WHEREIN IT IS STATED THAT NO FURTHER
EIS IS CONTEMPLATED FOR CONCORDE SERVICE BEYOND A
SIXTEEN-MONTH TRIAL PERIOD. IF, HOWEVER, THE USG
WERE TO SUBORDINATE FINAL DECISION FOR DULLES
TO FAR BROADER ISSUES THAN WERE FORESEEN IN THE
COLEMAN DECISION, E.G., THE SST NOISE RULE AND ITS
MANY RAMIFICATIONS, THEN THERE WAS A CHANCE THAT
THIS COULD PLACE IN QUESTION ALL THAT HAD BEEN
GAINED TO DATE FOR CONCORDE AND ENABLE CONCORDE'S
ADVERSARIES IN THE US TO REOPEN OLD ARGUMENTS
AND RENEW THEIR ATTACKS. A FINAL DECISION FOR
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DULLES ALSO HAD OBVIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE
SITUATION AT NEW YORK. WE COULD IMAGINE WHAT
REACTION OF FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION WOULD BE IF,
AFTER THE COLEMAN DECISION, THE USG CLAIMED ON
SEPT. 24 THAT IT STILL COULDN'T MAKE UP ITS
MIND ON CONCORDE SERVICE TO DULLES.
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